

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 794 – SB 935

March 23, 2011

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (005107): Deletes Section 1 and subsection (f) of Section 4 of the bill. Lowers the number of signatures needed on a petition to be recognized as a minor party filed with the Coordinator of Elections, from at least two and one-half percent of the total number of votes cast for gubernatorial candidates in the most recent election for Governor to at least 10,000 Tennessee residents, of which at least 2,000 must be from each Grand Division, and on each page of the petition, state its purpose, state its name, and contain the names of Tennessee residents. Authorizes a minor party to maintain recognition if the party receives a number of votes equal to at least one percent of the total number of votes cast in the regular November election for three consecutive regular November elections.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$3,000

Assumptions applied to amendment:

- The Coordinator of Elections anticipates that more petitions will be filed with the Coordinator's office since the required number of signatures needed on a recognized minor party petition will be substantially lowered by this amendment. This estimate assumes one petition will be filed annually.
- According to the Coordinator of Elections, since the amendment does not require each page of the petition to be separated by county, each page of the petition will contain the signatures of the registered voters from various counties.
- The amendment authorizes a Tennessee resident to sign the petition. Authorizing a Tennessee resident to sign the petition who is not a registered voter will require additional administrative work to collect and compare the signature of the signor.

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- Temporary administrative personnel will be hired to assist with the dissemination of the petition to the counties and to determine what signatures will count of those signors who are not registered voters.
- According to the Coordinator of Elections' office, two interns will be required to carry out the requirements of the amendment.
- Interns will work in 20-day cycles and make \$10 per hour for 7.5 hours per day. The recurring increase in state expenditures will be \$3,000 (\$10 per hour x 7.5 hrs per day x 20 working days x 2 interns).
- Temporary interns will be hired each time a petition is filed.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

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